



# PRESS RELEASE

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**\*\*\*VIDEO ATTACHED\*\*\***

**March 27, 2012**

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## **Police Seek Suspects in Lottery Scam Thefts \*Update\***

**Riverside, CA** - On Wednesday, March 14, 2012, the Riverside Police Department distributed a press release seeking the public's assistance, as well as warning the public about suspects wanted in four separate lottery scam thefts that have occurred throughout the City of Riverside. The thefts occurred between February 28, 2012 and March 13, 2012, and in all instances the targeted victims have been Spanish speaking females. On Friday, March 16, 2012, an updated press release was issued with a composite sketch of the two suspects.

Attached is a video of the lottery scam suspects at the Goodwill Store at Magnolia and Elizabeth in Riverside. The victim is the lady wearing pink and with the glasses. The male suspect is the light skinned male in his 50's with the light colored shirt and the baseball cap. He clearly chooses the victim and signals the female suspect with a head nod towards the victim. This video will also be available at the following link, <http://www.youtube.com/user/RPDCrimeVideos/featured>.

In the previous press release that was issued with the composites, the female suspect was described as skinny and she is on the heavier side. The male appears to be 6 foot or more.

The suspect's vehicle is described as a gray or light colored SUV, possibly a Toyota-4-Runner.

The suspect's commit the thefts by contacting female victims and employing a lottery ticket type scam. The suspects convince the victims that they have or can obtain a winning lottery ticket and promise to share the winnings with the victims if they produce cash for their portion of the winnings. The victims are then convinced to enter the suspect's vehicle and accompany them to a lawyer's office. While driving the victims are convinced to produce cash from their bank or are robbed of cash from their person before being released, without ever arriving at a lawyer's office. The suspects then flee in their vehicle with the victim's cash.

Anyone with information that may help identify these suspects is asked to contact Detective Dave Smith at (951) 353-7103 or Detective Greg Rowe at (951) 353-7136.

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